

# Voice of People on Issues of the Day.

## The Lesson of the Golden Calf.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Referring to "Timothy x16," we read, "There is nothing now under the sun, and further on 'The vagaries of human nature, though every varying, are constantly recurring.' Or, making use of a more graphic reference, in the thirty-second chapter of Exodus is found a case suggestive of, if not parallel to the present situation in the Democratic party; when, if we are to believe the signs of the times, there is cause to fear that a later day political Aaron is seeking to set up a golden calf to go before his party brethren as a guide to the promised land."

Mr. William R. Hearst may be the honest patriot that his admirers claim that he is; and this in spite of his possession of many millions; but when it is sought to put him up as a leader of his party, the man is lost sight of in the light of the millions; and in the present conditions the conclusion is irresistible, that a Golden Calf is being set up for adoration.

These unfriendly to Mr. Hearst say "that he is a calf alright enough; but so far from being of pure gold, that he is poorly plated, heavily alloyed with the material of moral caliber of the man in question; need not be here considered; suffice it to say, that wittingly or unwittingly his elevation to leadership at the expense of political corruption, and, at the very least, suggests, 'setting a rogue to catch a rogue'; in fact many of his friends unblushingly advance this as a reason for his nomination."

The right thinking and conservative people of our country, irrespective of party, are shocked at a mere suggestion, that the highest office in the gift of the electorate of this land, may be put up as it were to the highest bidder; but it is no unparalleled occurrence, for such people and parties, when deprived of a Moses, to rush off blindly after a calf, or worse, and herein lies the danger of the present situation.

Reading further from resourceful, "Timothy x16," we get our text, "It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good." The wind that blows dangerous, and, therefore, it behooves us to see and seriously to face the situation and try to discover, if possible, what advantage can and should be wrought therefrom.

It is being claimed by the friends of Mr. Hearst that he will, to a surprising extent, control the Virginia delegation to the St. Louis Convention; it is hard to credit that this can be more than an idle boast; but stranger things have happened, and the well informed see signs that demand consideration and call for an immediate check to this lunacy. A sure and safe cure is ready at any event. The writer believes that in any event, and, for various reasons, the delegation from this State should go to St. Louis instructed to vote for a Virginia candidate for the presidency, the present measure making what has heretofore been an advisable now imperative.

On a previous occasion I have through the columns of The Times-Dispatch pointed out various reasons going to show that the time is ripe for the nomination of a southern man; and suggesting that it is the duty of Virginians to see to it that our dearly beloved State be not longer known as the mother of dead and gone Presidents alone, but of a living one as well. The present situation emphasizes what has been formerly urged. The time for vigorous and fearless action has arrived. Both in the North and the South the idea is gaining ground that a southern man as a Virginian will make an acceptable candidate. Our proper self-respect demands that we accept the recent remark of General Grosvener, to the effect that the South is too modest, as the expression of an honest conviction; if not so taken it is a taunt of cowardice.

Political history recounts many instances where sentiment has been largely instrumental in winning some of the most remarkable political victories. Then may I ask, what more beautiful or forceful sentiment, or for that matter, logical issue, can the Democratic party offer than an appeal to the fairness of the American voter for a practical demonstration of his oft repeated profession, "that the war is over and that we are now a united people," by voting to put a worthy southern man at the head of the government?

There are undoubtedly numerous men in this and other Southern States who are worthy and would make strong candidates for President, but probably no man is more conspicuously and generally pointed out as acceptable and available, than Senator Daniel. This being true, the friends of Major Daniel should take immediate steps to secure from him an expression of his willingness to take the lead, even though this may incur personal sacrifice; or, if for any reason he is unable or unwilling to make the fight, then let us choose some other of Virginia's favorite sons for our standard-bearer, and that quickly.

The Virginia delegation should go to St. Louis instructed to vote for the nomination of a Virginian, and strong mind and true should be selected for this purpose; the first place is our right and should be our aim, but failing in this our candidate ought to be willing to take

the second place, as if we can do no better, let's get in line of the early days of our republic, and there is no reason why a man should be nominated or elected to the vice-presidency who is not worthy to fill the office of President; so no man who aspires to be President should be unwilling to accept the nomination for the second place.

Virginians to the fore! Let us show that we are neither unduly modest or weakly craven, and prove to the country at large that neither our brave men or our statesmen are all extinct. No harm can possibly come of urging a Virginian for the presidency, and it is bound to be a move in the right direction. Then why not try it? In place of Hearst clubs, let us organize Daniel clubs, and I believe that April 9th is a most appropriate day on which to begin. Will The Times-Dispatch publish a call to rally Virginians under a Virginia leader? In place of setting up a golden calf, let us choose a Joshua, and trust in bravery and right to prevail.

OTTO L. EVANS.

Amherst, Va.

## Judge Mann's Candidacy.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I have read with interest what you have written regarding the candidacy of Judge Wm. Hodges Mann for Governor, and have also read the News Leader. I believe that the editorials on the latter will make doubly sure his election. Judge Mann has been a life-long Democrat, and has just as much right to oppose the sale of liquor as any other Democrat has to advocate it. He has not led a separate party in opposition to the Democratic party, and it must be conceded that he has a right to use all honorable methods to work reform in his own party.

Are not those who oppose him on that question doing the same? Is it necessary for a man to espouse the liquor cause to be a good Democrat?

Whether Judge Mann's views are Democratic or not, his party adopted them. The News Leader sounded the warning too late, as the views objected to have already been adopted.

After an acquaintance of nearly thirty years, I can testify that Judge Mann is no fanatic, but a well-rounded, true man. As to his ability, I simply desire to point to his public record of over thirty years. If a cleaner man can be found, I would like to see him. I am glad to feel that a man cannot be read out of the grand old Democratic party simply because he thinks it is best to restrict the sale of liquor.

There are many noble and true men who have been mentioned as candidates for the high office of Governor of this grand old State, but none is more worthy than William Hodges Mann, of Nottoway.

H. H. SEAY.

Blackstone, Va.

## Henrico Land-Grabbers.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I have seen a great deal lately about the operations of so-called "land grabbers" in Henrico county, and in your yesterday's issue, I think, it was said that about a hundred acres of land had been sold, some of them against land companies and prominent property owners. I will not discuss the merits of the law under which the so-called "land grabbers" operate, though it seems at least to have the merit of forcing people to pay their delinquent taxes, but I would like for somebody to tell me why it is that there is so much room for the operations of these "land grabbers" in Henrico. Surely there must be more delinquent taxpayers in Henrico than in any other county in the State, for, since the first general cleaning up under this law in 1898 and 1899, there does not seem to be much going on in this line in the State at large.

But be that as it may, why is it that so much land is returned delinquent in Henrico and sold to the State and applied for by "land grabbers," when the taxes on same seem to be due by people perfectly able to pay them? The law requires that a treasurer shall (1) levy for the tax on the personal property of the person owing it, if such property can be found anywhere in his county; if he cannot find any personal property belonging to the land owner, he shall levy on the personal property of any tenant on the land in question and let the tenant take the tax out of his rent; (2) if he can't get it out of either land owner or tenant, he shall sell enough standing timber from the land to pay the taxes; (3) if neither of these remedies succeed, then he shall rent the land out for the ensuing year to pay the taxes. When such treasurer makes his report of delinquent taxes to the board of supervisors he is required to make oath that he has exhausted all these remedies and has been unable to collect the taxes, and the board of supervisors shall not permit said taxes to be filed except accompanied by such oath, and even then shall not allow any item of delinquency reported, if in the opinion of the board

such item might have been collected by the treasurer, had he used due diligence under the law. I don't believe that if these remedies are faithfully used that there is a county in the State, nay, no two or three counties put together, that will have as many as 100 tracts of land delinquent in any one year, and, if anyone will just think about it for a moment, they will see that I am right, and I know what I am talking about, because I have known a treasurer in this county who only returned four tracts delinquent in the whole county. Then why is there so much delinquency in Henrico? Can there be but one explanation, and that is the unfaithfulness of treasurer and board of supervisors and the careless indifference of the taxpayers themselves? Then, why blame a law which makes people pay taxes which should have been collected long before if the officers had been faithful, or the people careful about their obligations?

J. C. PARKER.

Franklin, Va.

## Delinquent Taxes.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—The question of delinquent taxes has been a very live one in Virginia since the passage of the first effective "Land Grabbers' Act" in 1898. The history of the operation of that and subsequent acts form the end and snout of many titles to lands throughout the Commonwealth. Perhaps no legislation since the Federal Reconstruction Acts has caused such disturbance and suffering in this State. It took some time for the people in the country to realize what the Legislature had done, but it was not long before the citizens of Richmond began to appreciate the dangers of delinquent State taxes.

Yet the idea has prevailed that there is but little to fear from city taxes. Even the most alert real estate agents have held this view. But as the law now stands, the danger from city taxes is

much greater than that from State taxes. The estates of remaindermen and reversioners have always been protected from delinquent State taxes (Code, section 63); and the Supreme Court of Appeals, in the suit of "Estate vs. Commonwealth," 58 Va. 2, 47, held that such estates were also protected from city taxes. But no sooner was that decision rendered than our city authorities, with a zeal that will be certainly questioned when the people understand the situation, procured from the Legislature certain amendments to the city charter which convert the city into a potential land grabber with such gigantic powers that all the other land grabbers in the State are but pygmies by her side. This act declares that "there shall be a lien on all real estate, and on each and every interest therein, for the city taxes assessed thereon from the commencement of the year for which they are assessed." This lien on each and every interest in lands is a new lien in our laws peculiar to the city of Richmond, and is expressly designed to cut out all estates by way of reversion, remainder or otherwise. If a life tenant fails to pay city taxes, he places not only his estate but the estate of the remainderman in jeopardy. If an individual purchases at a sale for city taxes and gets a deed which is recorded within sixty days from its date, he obtains the title of the party assessed with the taxes for which the land was sold, subject to be defeated only by proof that such taxes were not chargeable thereon or had been paid. But if no individual purchases and the land is struck off to the city as soon as the remainderman may have had no actual knowledge of any delinquency. No notice is required to be given to him, nor to any one else, except by advertisement on one

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or two days in a newspaper that may never be seen by him. The only notice required by the statute is, that the time and place of sale for delinquent taxes must be once published in at least two daily newspapers, published in the city, at least ten days previous to such sale; and that a list of the parcels of real estate to be sold, described according to assessment, together with the name of the person to whom assessed and the amount of the assessment thereon, must be once published in one or more of said daily papers on some day, not more than twenty days less than ten days previous to such sale. Thus it would seem that two publications, both of which may be made on the same day, in two daily newspapers, not less than ten nor more than twenty days before the sale, may be all the notice any reversioner or remainderman may be afforded concerning the sale of his property. It may be doubted whether the harsh and novel provisions of this statute will stand the test of the courts, but in any event our citizens should be fully and fully warned and should take due heed to the dangers they run.

EUGENE C. MASSIE.

## Books and Teachers.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—For we have just been placed in a position upon the books to be used in our public schools. Since the books have now been virtually selected, let us know now, then ten days previous to such sale. Thus it would seem that two publications, both of which may be made on the same day, in two daily newspapers, not less than ten nor more than twenty days before the sale, may be all the notice any reversioner or remainderman may be afforded concerning the sale of his property. It may be doubted whether the harsh and novel provisions of this statute will stand the test of the courts, but in any event our citizens should be fully and fully warned and should take due heed to the dangers they run.

EUGENE C. MASSIE.

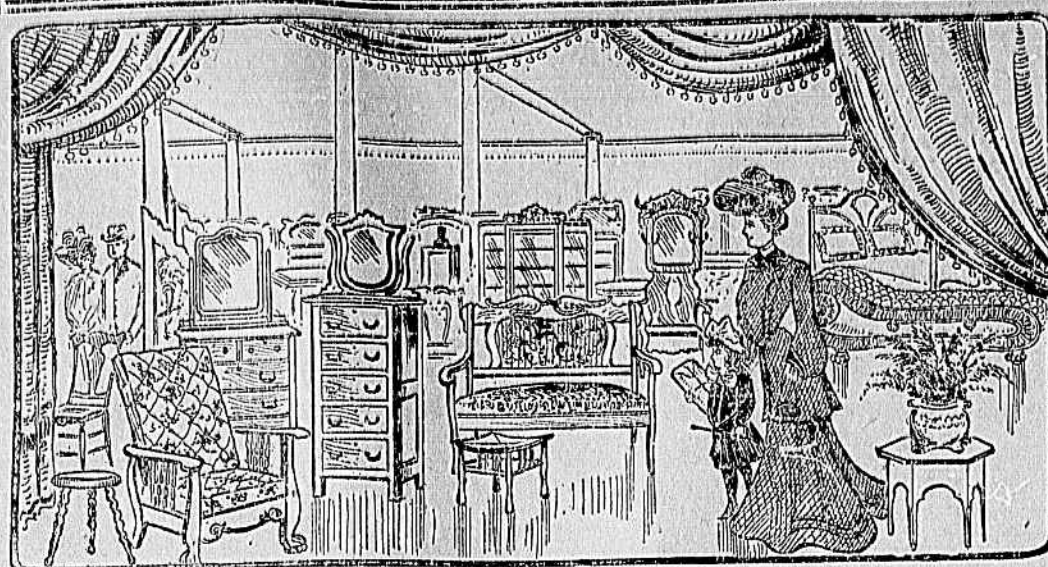
Philosophy.  
Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
Sir,—He who knows not and knows not he knows not is a fool; shun him.  
"He who knows not and knows he knows not is a child; teach him."  
"He who knows and knows not he knows not is asleep; wake him."  
"He who knows and knows he knows is a prophet; follow him."  
WILLIAM M. TERRELL.  
Auburn Mill, Va.

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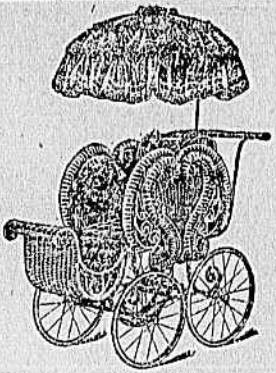
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BAPTIST & PICOT.

The above mentioned dissolution will in no way interfere with the thing of all orders in the same prompt and careful manner as heretofore. Thanking our friends and the public in general for the liberal patronage extended to us in the past, and hoping the new company may be favored with the same, we are,  
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## IN NATURE'S WAY.

1414 Clybourne Street, MILWAUKEE, WIS., April 30, 1903.

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